

The Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve

Newsletter 49 – Autumn 2020

Registered Charity No: 1122293

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Clearing reeds at Wychall reservoir



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Newsletter 49

55 Wychall Lane, Kings Norton Registered Charity No. 1122293

The Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve

Chair's Report

Amidst the confusion and restrictions of the current pandemic the Reserve has more than achieved one of the aims of the Vision Statement "to provide a safe and welcoming and inspiring place for all to enjoy".

The widening of footpaths on the Reserve caused by the greatly increased footfall of people taking their daily exercise is clear proof of this. The majority of the new visitors are from the immediate locality, and hopefully they will continue to visit and enjoy the Reserve over the coming months.

One unfortunate consequence of more visitors has been an increase in inappropriate and anti-social behaviour including fishing on Merecroft, thoughtless cyclists posing risks to others, drug-taking and vandalism. When appropriate the Rangers and Police have been informed although, understandably, their resources are not sufficient to provide an immediate response. The most visible and annoying issue (for me at least) has been the failure of people to take their rubbish home even when the bins are full and, worse still, the abandoned dog poo bags, especially during the hot weather. Thanks to the Rangers and Street Cleaning for their efforts to collect the rubbish as often as possible.

A positive outcome of increasing footfall has been the steady trickle of people requesting to join the Friends Facebook page, and we now have some 400 members. Items posted on the page must be directly about or relevant to the Reserve. Ones that are not, or that include inappropriate language, will be removed.

That's enough of the Chair's rant! In the current scheme of things relatively little things like minor vandalism fade into insignificance. It must be remembered that we are a public open space with free and open access to all at any time of the day. No one has been hurt, and the Reserve continues to be a place to enjoy the surroundings and relax. A chance to forget, if only for a while, the worries we all have.

The Tuesday WorkOuts were suspended for the first six weeks of the lockdown but as soon as up to 6 people could meet outside,

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socially distancing, the Tuesday activities resumed. Further investigation of the government's restrictions has revealed that as a voluntary body and registered charity we are allowed to have 30 people working socially distanced. So, we are now able to work at full strength. Especially heartening during lockdown was that individual volunteers and members of the public carried on "emergency" litter picking and clearing of overgrowth.

There doesn't seem to be any likelihood of committee meetings or the AGM being held in the near future. However, there is good communication between committee members and any pressing decisions can still be made. As the Friends group is a registered charity we are bound by the rules for the timing of the AGM, but as the pandemic can be seen as an unprecedented event there is no pressure to hold one while the current situation continues.

Thanks to Alan Bakewell the FKNNR was founded in 2004, so the Friends have now been caring for the Reserve for some sixteen years. This has required many thousands of volunteer hours either working on a Tuesday or sitting on the committee or both! Many of our active volunteers have now reached the grand old age of three score years and ten and cannot, through no fault of their own, put the same amount of time and energy into caring for the reserve as they once did. Therefore, if we are not able to attract significant numbers of new, younger, volunteers the maintenance of the reserve might deteriorate.

At the recent litter pick on the 27th September it was great to have such a lot of new faces join us, inspired by their daily exercise routines jogging, running or cycling across the reserve. We hope to see them again sometime soon. We would also be very pleased to hear from anyone who might want to join the volunteer Tuesday WorkOut group and can assure you of a warm welcome and the opportunity to lots learn new skills such as building hurdles, felling trees correctly and mowing the meadow with a Tracmaster power scythe – and of course good old-fashioned scything and raking.

Andrew Nabbs

Chair

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Volunteering in Lockdown

Well of course when the pandemic first hit, and we were put into full lockdown, the Tuesday WorkOuts came to a sudden halt. But that didn't stop a number of people – Tuesday regulars and newcomers who were discovering the Reserve for themselves as they took their daily exercise – from keeping an eye on the state of paths etc. People regularly walked around with secateurs in pockets to trim back brambles, pick up litter, etc. More users did mean more litter and more dog poo bags, and often the waste bins could not cope. But I think that is under control now, and people are frequently heeding our encouragement to take their litter home.

A couple of us met up at Beaks Hill Triangle to finish the plug-planting that was mentioned in the last Newsletter. With lockdown just started we worked in separate fields! Other pairs of workers dealt with the odd fallen branch, and so we went on for a length of time. At last we learned that a group of six could meet together outside, and we were able to start small Tuesday WorkOuts again – or sometimes two small WorkOuts in different areas, if more people wanted to work. The amount of plant growth to be tackled since the start of lockdown was enormous, and a good deal of time was spent on cutting back vegetation. We subsequently learned that, as a registered charity, we could bring together a socially-distanced group of thirty people for outside work. This is more than adequate for our normal purposes, and it is extremely easy to socially distance with such a large area to look after. Even on our recent Sunday litter pick we did not exceed that number, and again we broke into very small groups. Unless we are put into another full lockdown I think we can safely say we have weathered the storm of Covid-19 and that the Reserve is in reasonable fettle.

Amanda Cadman

Volunteer Co-ordinator

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Horses, fences, feeding – and stone-throwing

In general, it seems to me, people have really welcomed access to the Reserve during these long months of lockdown. For me it has been a pleasure to see all those bikes on the cycle route (OK some going too fast and without bells to alert walkers) and all those families walking their dogs, who must be amazingly slim after all the unusual exercise. But there have been some concerns about misbehaviour, as Andrew says elsewhere, and I do know of a greenhouse that has been the target of stone-throwing on more than one occasion.

I have also heard concerns from the horse owners on the grazing fields about trespassers and people feeding inappropriate and sometimes dangerous food to the horses (surely not members of the Friends), and from Friends who are worried by the electric fence that has been installed to protect the horses but which they believe will cause injury to passers-by. So I thought it might be helpful to explain that, although the grazing meadows are indeed part of the nationally-designated Local Nature Reserve, they do not form part of the Public Open Space that lies alongside them. The fields were sold, leasehold, along with the stables, with all necessary covenants to ensure they remain in 'agricultural' use for the period of the lease, so they are now in private ownership, and the owner and his tenants the graziers are entitled to ensure there is no trespassing.

So far as electric fences are concerned, they are battery powered and deliver a mild tingling shock which wears off quickly and will not injure people or animals. Sue Amey, our District Parks Manager, is entirely happy that we have an electric fence on the Reserve; no one simply walking past should get a shock, and anyone attempting to climb over the fence has certainly been warned by all the notices attached. The fence is in fact back slightly from the boundary line between Public Open Space and private land: the actual boundary is marked by a presently rather scruffy holly hedge. We plan to boost the hedge with additional plantings over the winter to ensure a more natural boundary within the Reserve. I hope that more holly and hawthorn will help

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to deter those intent on climbing over the fence, and that the horses will be left in peace for us all to enjoy at a distance.

Amanda Cadman

Lockdown Appreciation (quotes from emails received)

"I just wanted to pass on my appreciation for the work done by FKNNR in making this wonderful resource available. My wife and I have been regular explorers of the reserve over the last few years, but during the COVID lockdown this has become much more intense. We have been walking, usually early morning, from Middlemore Road in a circuit around the reserve. It has been a real pleasure to observe the changes as the various sites progressed from early spring to full summer.

The birdsong has been noticeable with blackcaps and chiffchaffs being particularly noted.

We did also spot a kingfisher disappearing along the river as we arrived at the footbridge over the weir/overflow near Popes Lane. We have seen these on a few occasions over the years and it was good to see they are present still. However, another sighting might explain why they might be less frequent and this was a mink. While not actually in the reserve (it was near to the footbridge over the river on the path near to Middlemore Road) I would imagine its territory would extend along the river well into the reserve and, I think, they are well known predators of kingfishers and many other birds.

Once the lockdown is lessened further we hope to get involved in the Tuesday workgroups, but until then again many thanks to the Friends as a whole."

..."it has made such a difference to us in lockdown to discover all of the Nature Reserve. We knew the Rea Valley route before but have been so happy to discover the rest of the reserve. Once lockdown is over I am really keen to join in with volunteering."

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Himalayan Balsam – getting some help from nature

Although still something of a newcomer to Kings Norton, late spring and summer now mean for me weeks of regular Tuesday morning 'balsam bashing' in the nature reserve – mostly pulling the Himalayan balsam plants up by hand, piling them up and stamping on them for good measure. Some fellow workers eschew the stamping bit, and others deal with thick patches by literally bashing or scything them. Whichever the method, although continued effort over the years has severely reduced the amount of balsam in a few areas, it remains overwhelmingly the winner in most others.

Thus it was that I read with some excitement about trials of rust fungus as a controller of Himalayan balsam in *The Guardian* one day in June, albeit matched with sorrow as it was in the obituary of Carole Ellison, a rather feisty-sounding environmentalist who had been leading the research and whose life had been cut short by cancer. Mentioning this rust fungus to fellow volunteers the following Tuesday, Ian Freake informed me that there had been some trials of it at Tamworth a few years back but that it had not seemed to reduce growth of the balsam to any great extent.



Not wishing to be discouraged, I searched on my computer and found an article from January 2020 by Carole Ellison and fellow researchers (see reference below) on the state of their trials to date. It seems, to my reading, which struggled with the biological technicalities, that there is an awful lot more to be done in terms of trials and research, but at least some hope that the researchers and the fungus might perhaps eventually manage to reduce balsam growth to a point where it does not outcompete other vegetation, especially on river banks.

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Search for a biological control started in the early 2000s. Some insect controllers were tried, found effective but ruled out as impacting on other related *Impatiens* plant species. The rust fungus, however, is specific to Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and will not affect other species. In fact the fungus (*Puccinia komarovii* var. *glanduliferae*) is not just specific to Himalayan balsam, it actually has separate localised versions of itself, each specific to the Himalayan balsam population in a different part of the balsam's natural range.



The first trials in the UK were with a sample of the rust fungus from the Kullu Valley, Himachal Pradesh, India, which had effect on some patches of Himalayan balsam, but not others. This led to the realisation that the plant had been introduced to the UK more than once, from different parts of its native range. Samples of the rust fungus from the Kaghan Valley, Pakistan were then trialled, and have proved effective in some, but not all, areas where the first was not.

More strains of the rust fungus will clearly have to be brought in, although one cannot know how many. Of the trials on 31 distinct sites of balsam in 2017, and another 37 new sites in 2018, (total 68 sites), 28 sites (41%) were resistant (only partially susceptible) or immune to both of the present two strains of rust fungus being trialled, particularly so in southeast England. Of 8 sites in the Midlands, 2 were immune, 4 resistant (partially susceptible) and only 2 were fully susceptible to the fungus.

Another sticking point is that the fungus may be effective in the sense of reducing leaf growth when delivered directly to balsam leaves in spring or summer, but it also has to manage to overwinter on dead leaves in order to be a self-sustaining control.

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It seems so far that the over-wintering can be quite problematic, although it has been achieved at a few places.

But if the rust fungus does manage to overwinter, then it will be able to deal double blows to the balsam. The fungus has a five-stage annual growth cycle. It attacks and weakens or kills the stem of the balsam seedlings below the seed leaves at one of its five stages and weakens leaf growth of the balsam at another stage.

The original method of delivering the fungus was by producing some balsam plants with infected leaves in the laboratory, and then planting them at a site, allowing for the wind to move spores onto other plants. But from 2016 onwards the research team at CAB International (Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International), in Berkshire, have harvested spores in the laboratory and then mixed them into a solution that can be sprayed on to balsam leaves at trial sites.

Realistically we may have to wait quite a few more years before rust fungus from the same part of the Himalayas as our balsam catches up with it in Kings Norton. But as we approach each spring with gritted teeth, it is good to know that there is at least hope that, sometime, balsam bashing might become a distant memory.

Margie Hall, Tuesday Workout Volunteer

Ellison, C.A., Pollard, K.M. and Varia, S (2020) Potential of a coevolved rust fungus for the management of Himalayan Balsam in the British Isles: first field releases. *Weed Research: An International Journal of Weed Biology, Ecology and Vegetation Management* Vol 60, no 1. Available online: <https://doi.org/10.1111/wre.12403>

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The Hampson Barrier scheme – Wychall Reservoir

Though Barnes Wallace's name is irrevocably linked with devices that were supposed to destroy dams, our long-time volunteer David Hampson's name is now associated with efforts to hold the water back!

For years members and passers-by have been sorrowful about the silting-up of Wychall reservoir, especially as 'Friends of Wychall Reservoir' was the acorn from which FKNNR grew. It was once a large expanse of open water, created in the 19thC. to compensate mill-owners along the Rea whose water supply was diverted to feed the canals. Local residents can still recall there being a boat-house, and the reservoir was once used by the Sea Scouts. A large anchor was also discovered during excavations! The site is now managed by the Environment Agency, and it functions as a flood defence for the occasions when heavy rain causes the River Rea to overflow.



Unfortunately, the 'reservoir', which had potential as a lovely area of open water for wildlife and wading birds as well as invertebrates and other species, is rapidly drying out, silting up, and being covered with vegetation. When rainwater overflows at the spillway

under storm conditions, it quickly flows through various channels, only to disappear 'down the plughole' near Burmans Drive.

We were told that dredging silt out of the reservoir would not be cost-effective as it still wouldn't hold any more floodwater! David Hampson engaged in lengthy negotiations with the Environment Agency on our behalf, and devised the current plan to convince the Agency that nothing we intended to do would increase flood risk. David also had to contend with changes of personnel at the Agency, who required all manner of plans and diagrams; and we even had to pay a fee for the issuing of a

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special permit for our work. Though David's original idea was to use special corrugated interlocking piling, as used along the canals, we were told we could only use 'natural materials' for our constructions – this despite the likely presence of many shopping trolleys, mattresses, traffic cones and worse, lurking in the silt...

David's scheme aims to slow down the water's progress through the old 'reservoir'. Below the spillway, by judicious excavation we will try to encourage floodwater to flow further into the area, and David has planned to locate a diversion barrier. The idea is for the water to replenish several 'scrapes' and reedbeds which we have created over the years.



Another important element of the scheme is to slow the flood by building several other barriers in the stream running parallel with the cycle path. These barriers have to be made from logs harvested from the woodland, retained by strong posts driven into the stream bed.

We thought the first attempts were strongly constructed, but they did not survive the last floods as well as we had hoped, their destruction possibly assisted by vandals.

Our next task is the construction of a third barrier about 20 metres wide, and 17 metres upstream, west of the grating which leads to the swallowhole. David surveyed the site carefully and took note

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of levels at the outflow. We had thought perhaps to build the barrier from readily-available redundant pallets as used to transport materials, thinking it would be strong and environmentally sound – a stock of them had been seen available on Freagle – but no, we are only permitted to use wood from the Reserve. And no nails.

We intend the barrier to retain 50cm of water above the silt level, and hope to encourage some ducks to paddle in it once more. In the winter it was possible to do measurements, and measure depths; we had cleared some reeds and rushes, the new growth had not emerged and we were able to clear a swathe across the shallow water. David estimated the silt had now accumulated to a depth of about five feet in that area. To enable us to walk across in wellies without the need for lifebelts or a raft, we gradually constructed a causeway of willow hurdles, laid flat on the soft mud and silt. This provided a primitive platform on which to work, and not sink in!



We had not anticipated the disruption caused by COVID-19. All our working-parties had to be abandoned, and only resumed in August subject to distancing precautions. When we returned a few weeks ago to survey the area it was unrecognisable due to massive new growth of bullrushes and reeds over six feet high. Our volunteers led by Ian and Dave and Derek had to scythe a way down the embankment till we eventually found the start of the causeway, and cleared some more

vegetation. David is still optimistic that if we cut off the rushes at current water level any new growth will drown as the water rises behind the new barrier, and it will be more manageable in future...

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The barrier across the silt will be constructed of more willow hurdles, fixed upright, with long posts driven deep into the silt and with even longer posts to anchor and support them.

'But', you will say, 'these hurdles are not waterproof. They have gaps between the willow weavings which will leak!' Well, really the hurdles are just a support for a natural material – coir matting.



Though coconuts are not grown in the UK, we are permitted to use the product in the same way as to repair canal banks, and help to retain the anticipated silt and extra water – though it will eventually biodegrade. We located a supplier of coconut matting as used as flooring for

wedding marquees – not many big weddings at present - and he had some 3-metre offcut rolls in 1-metre width at an advantageous price. When completed, the barrier will be lined with lengths of coir matting, fastened to the uprights, and embedded in the silt. So we are complying with the Environment Agency's regulations, and hope they will fulfil their part of the bargain to clear the reeds and rushes which are encroaching on the outfall, which is their responsibility.

We are now dividing our time between the long-term project of the Hampson Barriers, and pressing needs on other parts of the Reserve. We have just finished 'Balsam-bashing' for the season, and so in September turned our attention to making the first two



hurdles which are to form part of the Hampson Barrier itself. The method is to cut posts about 1.5m tall, sharpen the points, and bang them into the ground temporarily, while volunteers pollard and harvest as much willow for weaving as the weavers can use. Once a

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'hurdle' has been completed it is lifted out of the ground and taken to storage till needed.

This is a long-term project, reliant on a small team of Tuesday volunteers, but which we hope can restore a small part of the old reservoir as a proper habitat and amenity for wildlife, and not only flood defences, as at present. (But see rear page too)

Brian Hewitt

Birmingham Evening Mail 1st April 2160:

Stop Press - Remains of ancient lake habitations found on site of proposed M42 skyway in Kings Norton City.

"...wonderful state of preservation due to anaerobic conditions and deep silt..." say experts ... " tree-ring dating shows primitive people existed here a hundred and forty years ago. Purpose currently unknown...."



Hockney impression

Butterflies, Moths and Other Creatures

during the First Half of 2020

March

I found an Oak Beauty moth by Merecroft Pool on 9th. It was badly injured so I placed it under nearby foliage where it could peacefully expire.

Ruth Croft texted me on 23rd to report a Comma in her garden which borders the Reserve. The same afternoon I was also lucky enough to come across one near the Meadow Hill Road entrance. A little further on I stood and watched three Little Egrets perched side by side on a low branch overhanging the surface of Merecroft.

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Through my binoculars I could study their beautiful white plumage in detail.

Walking through Sheila's Meadow, past cowslips which were beginning to bloom, I reached Waterways Meadow where five Commas chased each other in the sunshine. Two Small Tortoiseshells and a Peacock were also enjoying the mild weather.

The following day the Covid-19 lockdown was announced – three weeks indoors except for one period of exercise and shopping daily. This allowed me to continue my regular visits but even so I saw no additional butterfly species until the second week of April.

April

A few Small Whites caught my eye as I walked along the path between Meadow Hill Road and Beaks Hill Road on 7th. Two Brimstones flew past and settled on bushes in Waterways Meadow and I met another by the Wychall Lane electricity sub-station. The following day Ruth Croft spied an Orange Tip in her garden and took photos of two Peacocks in the nearby meadow.

I took a gentle stroll through the whole Reserve on 9th. There were lots of Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks. I counted five Orange Tips and single examples of Large White, Brimstone and Holly Blue. Next day the Orange Tips were the most abundant butterfly and I came across three Brimstones.

There is a small path which runs parallel to Wychall Lane, through the trees between the River Rea and the cycle path (the "Woodland Walk"). I happened to be walking this path on 10th when I noticed what I took for solitary bees on the ground next to their burrows. I photographed one for the purpose of identifying the species. It turned out to be a large Bee-fly, a parasite of solitary bees.



Bee Fly

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Despite the previous few days being very warm, the mercury only hit 8°C on 13th. It remained sunny though and I noticed one Orange Tip which had the temerity to venture abroad. It continued cool but sunny for the next few days. Sheltered areas of Waterways Meadow, however, were the haunt of Peacocks, Orange Tips, Commas and Small Tortoiseshells.

Speckled Woods began to appear on 15th and I was honoured to see a Hummingbird Hawk-moth hover for a few seconds near Meadow Hill Road entrance before accelerating skywards out of sight. On 19th I watched a Comma, which was flying in an apparently drunken manner. When it settled, I could see that it was very worn, having lost one hind wing and half of the other. No wonder it had difficulty in steering! Later my attention was drawn to a small black and white moth resting on the trunk of an oak tree. I was able to identify it as a Least Black Arches.



May



Early May was pleasantly warm and I continued to appreciate the butterflies as they gave beautiful displays all over the Reserve which began to attract many additional visitors, only local travel being permitted. Some days the banks and paths around Merecroft became positively crowded with people.

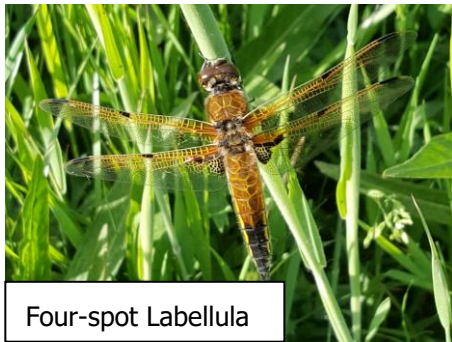
A worn Red Admiral was sunning itself by the Meadow Hill gate on 9th but there was a significant paucity of butterflies during the following few days as the weather had become cold and cloudy. However, there was a rapid improvement from 12th with

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several days touching 25°C. Indeed, by 19th, the meadows were teeming with butterflies including the newly-emerged Common Blues. Even a few threadbare Peacocks were among the throng. I was appreciating the gorgeous colours of the Red Admirals in Pinehurst on 26th when a Ringlet landed on a stem of grass close by. It was most unusual in that it was very pale, almost fawn in colour, unlike the usual dark brown. I tried to take a photo but it flew off. A short while later I disturbed a Red-green Carpet moth from a nearby bush. Among the Common Blues in Waterways on 28th was a completely brown female. This is not uncommon in this species but I do find that the majority of females are usually blue, like the males, in our Reserve. In the same meadow were a few small Skippers and Grey Damselflies. A single Burnet Companion moth was spotted skulking down in the grasses.

The 27th found me in Pinehurst where I was enchanted by the dazzling Damselflies. The grasses were full of Common Blues. Large Whites and Speckled Woods flew in and out of the trees bordering the meadow and I caught sight of a Mother Shipton moth on a grass stem.

On 31st May I was again in Pinehurst watching Blue Damselflies and Demoiselles. On my way home I walked through the Meadow Hill/Beaks Hill triangle where I was able to photograph a lovely four-spot Labellula resting on a grass stalk.



Four-spot Labellula

June

Close to the water's edge by Merecroft Pool are a few, very small, aspen bushes. Aspen is one of the preferred food-plants of the Poplar Hawk-moth. The female moth, in selecting suitable nurseries for her offspring, would normally lay one or two eggs on each larger aspen bush or tree that she visits. However, on 9th I noticed that one of the small aspen bushes had 20 eggs on one leaf. They had probably been laid by an injured moth who was

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unable to fly. Unfortunately, the small bush could not have supported one or two caterpillars to maturity, let alone 20. So, in order to ensure their survival, I reared them at home and now have 20 pupae. When they hatch, next Spring, I will release them into the wild.

The weather began to warm up again on 13th, which encouraged the emergence of Meadow Browns. As the month progressed their population in the Reserve meadows increased dramatically. On sunny days they could be counted in dozens on the wild flowers of the Peafields. Other butterflies which continued to fly in good numbers during June included Small Tortoiseshells, the three common Whites, Speckled Woods and Skippers.

During the month I regularly came across Riband Wave moths and Common Swift moths on fences and tree trunks. Several Cinnabar moths also flew weakly by me on my travels. Latticed Heath moths were often seen among the grasses of Waterways Meadow and the Peafields. On 16th a Currant Pug moth reposed on the fence separating Sheila's Meadow from the Horse Fields and on 19th I came upon a shaded Brown-bar moth on foliage in Waterways. Finally, a Bee moth turned up by Merecroft on 20th and a Silver-ground Carpet moth in Sheila's Meadow on 26th. On the same day I found a newly-hatched small moth next to its cocoon on an oak leaf. I'm still struggling to identify it, but hopefully its name will be revealed in the next report.

Bill Edge

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Many thanks!

Ever since **Phil Evans** moved away and ceased working with us the Tuesday workers have been grateful to **Peter Cage** for collecting the relevant tools for each week's duties and bringing them on site with the trailer and also in the back of his car. Peter has also looked after the future working party lists on the website, and indeed devised the website and has been our 'webmaster' since the beginning. He has also been closely involved with the layout of the Newsletter. At the beginning of lockdown Peter, whose health is somewhat precarious, and who is increasingly involved in grandparently duties, decided that he wished to take a sabbatical from WorkOut work and from running the website. Happily he is willing to continue work on the Newsletter. We wish him a peaceful sabbatical, and hope he may sometime be happy to join us on a Tuesday again.

Miraculously **Brian Hewitt** was willing to step into the breach to look after both the WorkOuts and the website. He is working closely with **Ian Freake** to devise our future work programme, and is willing to bring the appropriate tools on site in his car. Brian's quick thinking allowed the working group to change venue last week at extremely short notice when the entrance to Burman's Drive was found to be completely blocked by a large hole dug by Western Power. Thank you so much Brian!

I should not forget **Peter Childs**, who is an occasional bringer of the tools (and is now the only car owner with a ball hitch), or **Jean Perring**, who regularly helps with loading and unloading of said tools at our lock-up garage. As always we are enormously grateful to all who turn up week after week to work across the Reserve, and offer especial thanks to **Ian, Dave, Derek** and **David** of the Birmingham and Solihull Midweek Conservation Volunteers who manage to work longer and more effectively here than the rest of us put together, despite ours being only one of the three days they work out each week.

Amanda Cadman

Volunteer Co-ordinator

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Progress with hurdles forming the dam.

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Newsletter Production: Amanda Cadman, Sarah and Peter Cage

Environment Agency Hotline	0800 80 70 60
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Lickey Hills Rangers	0121 445 6036
WM Police Neighbourhood Team	101
Anti-Social Behaviour Hotline	0121 303 1111, option 5

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